

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: COUNTER-TERRORISM CONSTRUCTION - SEOUL

SEOUL FOR RSO; HONG KONG FOR OIC/RTC, RSS; TOKYO FOR TSO;
FROM A/SY/OPS/T

REF: (A) SEOUL 4741, (B) PAMPHLET - COUNTER-TERRORISM
PLANNING - PUBLIC ACCESS CONTROL

1. SY/OPS/FO AND A/SY/OPS/T DO NOT CONCUR WITH REF (A),
PARA 4, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. WALK-THRU METAL DETECTORS ARE SUSEPTABLE TO "MOVING
METAL" CAUSING FALSE ALARMS. MOVING METAL IN THIS CASE
WOULD BE THE METAL IN THE ENTRY DOORS (ASSUMED) IN THE
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FRONT LOBBY. THE WTMD SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED WITHIN FIVE
RPT FIVE FEET OF THE SWINGING DOORS. IF IT IS, FALSE
ALARMS WILL INCREASE AND THE PRESSURE PAD IN FRONT OF THE
INTERIOR DOOR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE UNLESS GUARD
THROWS THE TRANSFER SWITCH. THIS OPERATION WILL RENDER THE
WTMD VERTUALLY USELESS.

B. ALONG THE SAME LINES, VISITORS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CARRY INNOCENT METAL OBJECTS, I.E., BRIEFCASES, THROUGH THE ENTRY DOORS AND INTO THE DETECTOR. UNDER THE PROPOSED PLAN, THE DETECTOR WOULD SOUND AND AGAIN THE PRESSURE PAD WOULD NOT OPERATE AND THE GUARD WOULD HAVE TO THROW THE TRANSFER SWITCH.

C. WITH THE LOCAL GUARD SITUATED BEHIND THE PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURE, HE MUST ACCEPT ALL PARCELS, TO BE INSPECTED, INTO A CONTROLLED AREA HOUSING EMBASSY ALARM AND ACCESS SYSTEMS. IN THE EVENT THE PARCEL CONTAINED A BOMB, THE MSG DESK AND ITS INHABITANTS COULD BE ELIMINATED WITH MINIMUM DIFFICULTY. METAL DETECTOR OPERATORS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PHYSICALLY INSPECT VISITORS AND PARCELS AND THEY MUST INSURE THAT THE VISITORS WALK, UNENCUMBERED, THROUGH THE DETECTOR.

2. SY RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

A. HAVE TSO TOKYO CONDUCT WTMD SURVEY OF AMEMBASSY SEOUL.

B. POSITION WTMD IN LOBBY, YET REASONABLY CLOSE TO ENTRANCE DOOR.

C. HAVE LOCAL GUARD INSPECT PARCELS AT A TABLE/DESK NEAR WTMD, MONITOR VISITOR AS HE PASSES THROUGH WTMD, AND THEN
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RETURN CLEARED PARCEL TO VISITOR.

D. RECONSIDER USING PRESSURE PAD DOOR OPENING DEVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH WTMD ALARM.

E. SEE REF (B), P 28.

3. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE SAME BASIC GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN PARA 2.C. BE INCORPORATED, AT POST OPTION, INTO THE SECOND WTMD PLAN FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION.

4. POST HAS BEEN PUT ON WTMD WAITING LIST AND WILL RECEIVE DETECTOR WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

5. PLEASE ADDRESS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO SY/OPS/FO AND SY/OPS/T. VANCE

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